

CAPSULE SUMMARY

BA-1011

323 Lennox Avenue

East Towson, Baltimore County

1900-1915

Private

The house at 323 Lennox Avenue was constructed between 1900 and 1915 in the East Towson neighborhood of Baltimore County. The history of East Towson dates from the purchase of one-and-a-quarter acres of land by Daniel Harris in September 1853. This is believed to be the first documented African-American landholding in Towson, and is among the oldest such ethnic enclave in Baltimore County. Further, manumitted slaves and/or descendents of former slaves, many of who were owned by Charles Ridgely, populated the neighborhood. Hampered by the low economic status of the residents, development in the 19th century was slow, increasing after the turn of the 20th century. The setting of the property, building styles, and construction materials were guided by the limited economic status of the residents and their desire to establish a neighborhood of their own without the assistance of white architects, builders, and craftsmen. By 1927, the community was ninety-five percent improved with single-family dwellings, social buildings, a school, and religious structures. Many of the current homeowners and tenants living in the neighborhood are descendents of the first African-American residents.

This Colonial Revival-style wood frame dwelling is two-and-a-half stories high with a front-gable roof and a one-story wrap-around porch, which has been enclosed on the east elevation. The half-hipped roof porch is supported with square Tuscan posts resting on a continuous wood frame balustrade. The concrete pier porch foundation has glass block infill. The façade is two bays wide with a replacement single-leaf aluminum paneled door with a one-light transom. The first story windows are boarded over. The façade windows on the second-story are paired 6/6 double-hung wood sash with square-edged surrounds. The enclosed tympanum has a boxed horizontal and raking molded wood cornice and a 1/6 double-hung wood sash window (originally 6/6) with a square-edged wood surround. The house has one exterior stretcher-bond brick chimney on the east elevation and a gable roof wall dormer on the west elevation. The house is sided with asbestos shingles, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A one-story concrete block addition with a shed roof is located on the rear elevation.

Inventory No. BA- 1011

1. Name of Property

(indicate preferred name)

historic

other Scott House

2. Location

street and number 323 Lennox Avenue not for publication

city, town Baltimore vicinity

county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name	Gladys Virginia Washington
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street and number	620 Reckord Road	telephone	Not Available
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city, town	Fallston	state	MD	zip code	21047
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4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 5505 folio 465

city, town	Towson	tax map 70	tax parcel 491	tax ID number	919070620
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5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
_____ district	_____ public	_____ agriculture	_____ landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> X </u> building(s)	<u> X </u> private	_____ commerce/trade	_____ recreation/culture	<u> 1 </u>	_____ buildings
_____ structure	_____ both	_____ defense	_____ religion	_____	_____ sites
_____ site		<u> X </u> domestic	_____ social	_____	_____ structures
_____ object		_____ education	_____ transportation	_____	_____ objects
		_____ funerary	_____ work in progress	<u> 1 </u>	_____ Total
		_____ government	_____ unknown		
		_____ health care	_____ vacant/not in use		
		_____ industry	_____ other:		
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
				<u> 1 </u>	

7. Description

Inventory No. BA- 1011

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Located at 323 Lennox Avenue this Colonial Revival-style single-family dwelling dates from between 1900 and 1915. This wood frame building is two-and-a-half stories high with a front-gable roof and a one-story wrap-around porch, which has been enclosed on the east elevation. The half-hipped roof porch is supported with square Tuscan posts resting on a continuous wood frame balustrade. The concrete pier porch foundation has glass block infill. The façade is two bays wide with a replacement single-leaf aluminum paneled door with a one-light transom. The first story windows are boarded over. The façade windows on the second-story are paired 6/6 double-hung wood sash with square-edged surrounds. The enclosed tympanum has a boxed horizontal and raking molded wood cornice and a 1/6 double-hung wood sash window (originally 6/6) with a square-edged wood surround. The house has one exterior stretcher-bond brick chimney on the east elevation and a gable roof wall dormer on the west elevation. The house is sided with asbestos shingles, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A one-story concrete block addition with a shed roof is located on the rear elevation.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA- 1011

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates 1900-present **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates 1900-1915

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The house at 323 Lennox Avenue was constructed between 1900 and 1915 in the East Towson neighborhood of Baltimore County. East Towson is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, specifically the pre-Civil War development of an African-American neighborhood in a predominately white community. The history of this property dates from the purchase of one-and-a-quarter acres of land by Daniel Harris in September 1853. This is believed to be the first documented African-American landholding in Towson, and is among the oldest such ethnic enclave in Baltimore County. Further, manumitted slaves and/or descendents of former slaves, many of who were owned by Charles Ridgely, populated the neighborhood. Hampered by the low economic status of the residents, development in the 19th century was slow, increasing after the turn of the 20th century. The setting of the property, building styles, and construction materials were guided by the limited economic status of the residents and their desire to establish a neighborhood of their own without the assistance of white architects, builders, and craftsmen. By 1927, the community was ninety-five percent improved with single-family dwellings, social buildings, a school, and religious structures. Many of the current homeowners and tenants living in the neighborhood are descendents of the first African-American residents.

East Towson as a whole is representative of an important phase of architectural development in Baltimore County, illustrating the dilution of popular architectural styles to more efficiently meet the needs of the neighborhood, and the builders' untrained abilities to execute the fashionable ornamentation. Thus, East Towson provided lower cost housing in a more suburban neighborhood, rather than the urban setting their economic status typically perpetuated.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA- 1011

Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.

Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.

Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.

Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.

Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .10 Acre

Acreage of historical setting Unknown

Quadrangle name Towson

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The dwelling is located at 323 Lennox Avenue in East Towson in the Ninth District of Baltimore County. It has historically been associated with Tax Map 70, Parcel 491 since its construction in the first quarter of the 20th century.

11. Form Prepared by

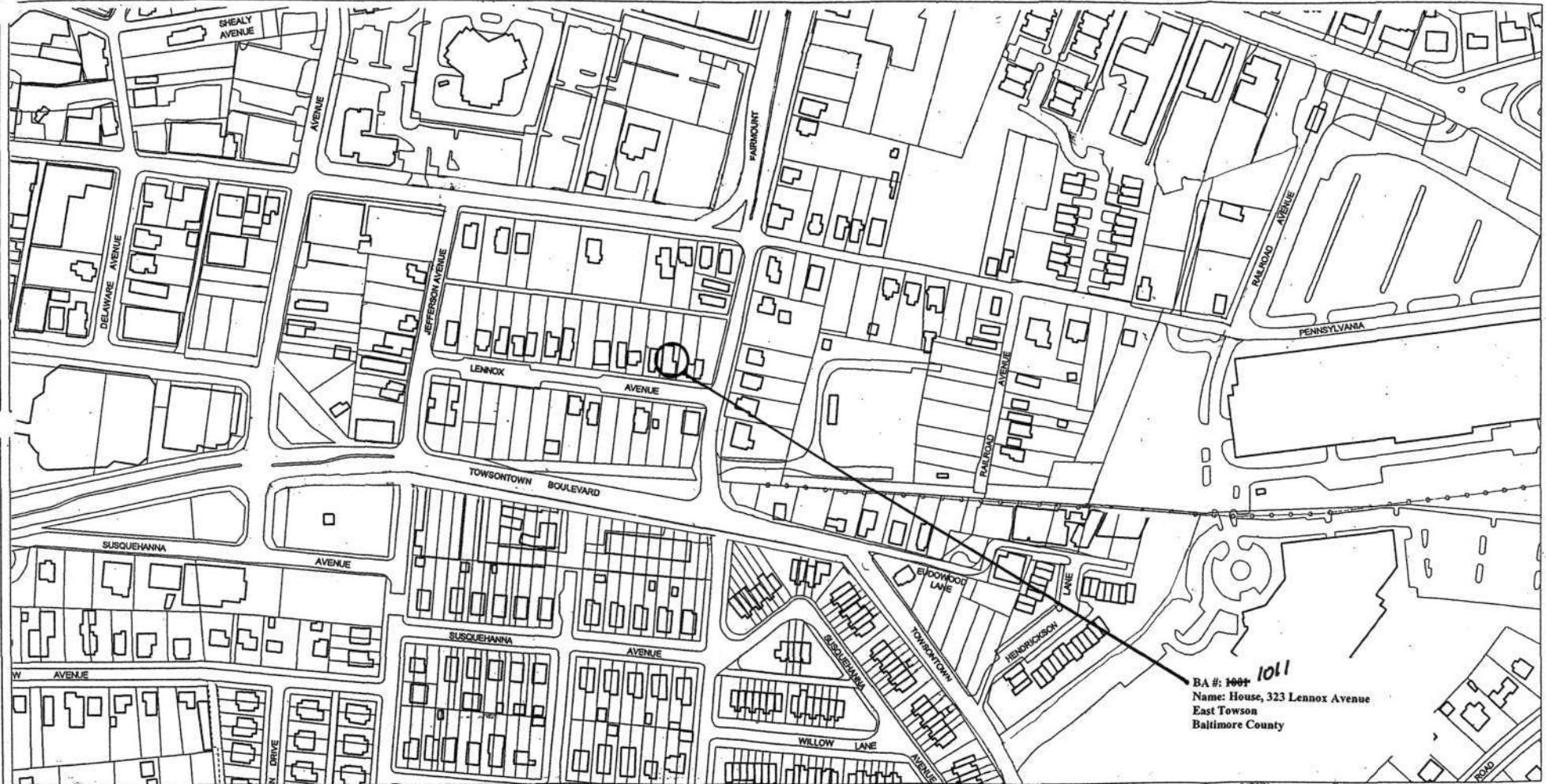
name/title	K. Baynard, J. Bunting, R. Weidlich, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Traceries, Incorporated	date	November 5, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

East Towson: Planimetric Data



Prepared by:
Baltimore County Office of Planning
401 Bosley Avenue
Towson, Maryland 21204
June, 2001



Scale

1 inch = 200 feet

1:2400

100 0 100 200 Feet

Legend

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Paved Roads | Study Area Boundary | Hydrographic Features |
| Unpaved Roads | Buildings | Vegetation |
| Paved Parking / Driveways | | |

Data Sources:
Planimetric Data: Baltimore County OIT GIS Services Unit (1:2400)
Parcel Boundaries: Baltimore County OIT GIS Services Unit (1:2400)
Study Area: Baltimore County Office of Planning (1:2400)
Coordinate System:
Maryland State Plane: NAD83/91 Horizontal Datum
Elevations in Feet: NAVD88 Vertical Datum
Date of Data Capture: March 1996
Scale of Data Capture: 1" = 100'



BA-1011

East Towson
Towson, Maryland
Towson USGS Quad Map
Baltimore County

(BALTIMORE WEST)
5662 / SW

Mapped by the Army Map Service
Edited and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and Maryland
Bureau of Control Surveys and Maps

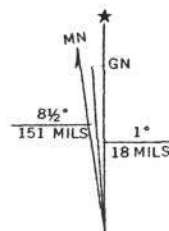
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1943. Topography by planetable surveys 1944
Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1957

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only
landmark buildings are shown

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from
aerial photographs taken 1966 and 1974. This information not
field checked

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



BA-1011

HOUSE, 323 LENNOX AVENUE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

MD-SHPD

SOUTHWEST CORNER, VIEW LOOKING NORTHEAST

1 of 2

TRACERIES, 10/2001



BA-1011

HOUSE, 323 LENNOX AVENUE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

MD-SHPD

SOUTHEAST CORNER, VIEW LOOKING NORTHWEST

2 of 2

TRACERIES, 10/2001

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

BA-1011

MAGI#0310115704

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

THE SCOTT HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 323 Lennox Ave.

second

CITY, TOWN

Towson Md. 21204

VICINITY OF

Baltimore

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☐ BUILDING(S)
☒ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Emory Terrell and Mary Scott

823-6506

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

c/o Leroy Haile 13 W. Chesapeake Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Towson Md, 21204

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #: 5505:465

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Towson Md. 21204

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

BA-1011 - 323 Lennox

c. 1915 - 1927

A two-story frame house, 323 Lennox is two bays wide by three rooms deep. Its porch, running across the street-facing gable end, continues in an enclosed sun room on the east side.

7 DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**☐ EXCELLENT☐ GOOD☐ FAIR☐ DETERIORATED☐ RUINS☐ UNEXPOSED**CHECK ONE**☐ UNALTERED☐ ALTERED**CHECK ONE**☐ ORIGINAL SITE☐ MOVED

DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

323 Lennox Ave.

This attractive house is of a later style than most of the others on Lennox Ave. Its plan consists of a stair hall and one room at the front of the main two story section, with one room behind this and a one story room on the right. The front porch roof wraps around the corner to roof this room in one continuous structure. There is a one story shed addition to the rear. The front porch is semi-closed, with fat square posts running from the enclosure to the roof. A cellar under the porch is finished with glass blocks and concrete blocks shaped to imitate stone.

The front door, at the left, is topped by a single-pane transom. A window made of two connected 6/6 sash windows is to the right, and an identical window in its rear wall, and four connected 6/6 windows along its side. Two double 6/6 sash windows light the front of the second floor and a single 6/6 sash window lights the attic. One 6/6 dormer window projects from the left-hand roof slope. All the windows are framed with unmolded boards.

The front gable has a small pent running across it, strengthening its dimented appearance. The house is sheathed in grey asbestos shingles. A fireplace is located in the right-hand wall of the main front room. A large square newel stands at the foot of the stairs.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE**PERIOD**

☐ PREHISTORIC
☐ 1400-1499
☐ 1500-1599
☐ 1600-1699
☐ 1700-1799
☐ 1800-1899
☐ 1900-

☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ ARCHITECTURE
☐ ART
☐ COMMERCE
☐ COMMUNICATIONS

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING
☐ CONSERVATION
☐ ECONOMICS
☐ EDUCATION
☐ ENGINEERING
☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
☐ INDUSTRY
☐ INVENTION

☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
☐ LAW
☐ LITERATURE
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSIC
☐ PHILOSOPHY
☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

☐ RELIGION
☐ SCIENCE
☐ SCULPTURE
☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ THEATER
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES**BUILDER/ARCHITECT****STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

This property is part of the land originally owned by Benjamin Payne and was later conveyed to Lester Maddox and Emma Maddox on August 18, 1885. It was then conveyed to John J. Yellot who subdivided the tract into individual lots in 1905. The earliest recorded owner after Yellot, was Alverta Johnson and George Rachel Scott in 1924. However, the 1915 map indicates that the house did exist at that period, it was owned by the family of George Scott. After fifty years of living in the house it was then conveyed to Emory Scott, son of George, who later married Mary Terrell; she presently owns the structure.

Local History indicates that Alverta Johnson was the ex-wife of Mr. Willie Johnson, who built this particular house.

Land Records of Baltimore County Liber Folio 5505:465
WPC 52:279

IBID Land Records 52:279
1915 Bromley Atlas Ninth District of Towsontown

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE _____

COUNTY _____

STATE _____

COUNTY _____

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marcus Pollock/coordinator Merry Stinson/architect 7/77

ORGANIZATION

Committee to Save E. Towson/Towson Ymca

DATE

823-8870

STREET & NUMBER

600 W. Chesapeake Ave.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Towson Md. 21204

STATE

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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



BA-1011
The Scott House
323 Lennox
Towson, Md.
south

Merry Stinson
1977